queries which make them return again and again to the Passport Offices;

(b) whether it is a fact that earlier any one could apply for passport by presentation of application through travel agents who took full responsibility to present the same to Passport Offices; if so, whether it is a draconian control measure which the Ministry has imposed in these days of liberalisation;

(c) whether Government would revert to the old policy of presenting passport applications through travel agents; and

(d) whether Government would consider the recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The system of recognition of travel agents was dispensed with with effect from 24-7-92 as complaints had been received of some travel agents having indulged in malpractices by submitting forged documents to acquire passports. In conformity with the decision taken in July 1992, any travel agent/individual can deposit passport application forms at Passport Offices on proper authorisation by the applicant. Hence the system is less restrictive, and correspondingly less subject to irregularities and unhealthy practices.

(c) and (d) In responding to the recommendations of the Standing Committee, Ministry have stated that "the introduction of the new systems had been challenged by the Travel Agents in the law courts and the case went upto the Supreme Court. The Judgement of the Supreme Court is awaited. At the High Court level all excepting Tamilnadu have ruled against the Travel Agents."

Indian delegation in UNHRC meeting

1304. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently concluded session of United Nations Human Rights Commission was participated by an Indian Delegation;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of members of the Indian delegation;

(c) whether some protocol changes were made while constituting the Indian delegation;

(d) whether the Indian delegation drew the attention of the Commission towards miserable condition of Muhajirs and Christians in Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, with reaction of the Commission thereto and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) An Indian delegation comprising the following members participated in the 51st session of the UN Commission of Human Rights held in Geneva from 31st January to 10th March, 1995:

1. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad (Minister for Civil Aviation)
2. Shri Salman Khurshid (Minister of State for External Affairs)
3. Shri Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi (Minister of State PMO)
4. Shri I. K. Gujral, MP
5. DR. Farooq Abdullah
6. Shri Inderjit, MP
7. Shri Brajesh Misra
8. Shri Natwar Singh
9. Prof. Khusro
10. Ms. Savitri Kunadi, Joint Secretary (UNE), MEA

11. Shri Satish Chandra, PR (Permanent Mission of India, Geneva)

12. Ms. Sujata Mehta, Director (PMO)

13. Shri Dinkar Srivastava, Director (UNP)

14. Ms. M. Manimekalai, First Secretary (S) Permanent Mission of India, New York.

Dr. Manmohan Singh addressed the UN Human Rights Commission as podium Speaker.

Protocol requirements were fully observed while constituting the delegation.

(d) to (e) During the session the Indian delegation aprised the international community, of the true facts of the case in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the sponsorship and abettment of terrorism from across the border. The delegation also highlighted India's policy of promotion and protection of human rights, and drew attention to Pakistan's dismal record of treatment of Mohajirs and Christians.

Indo- China expert group meeting

1305. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. SANJAYA SINH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third meeting of India-China Expert Group on the border issue was held recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the decisions arrived at during that meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The third meeting of the India-China Expert Group was held in New Delhi on March 2-4, 1995;

(b) and (c) The Expert Group reviewed the progress made at its first two sessions and continued deliberations on the tasks assigned to it under the Border Peace and Tranquillity Agreement signed during Prime Minister's visit to China in September 1993. The two sides were pleased to note that the situation along the India-China Line of Actual Control was peaceful. The two sides had a useful exchange of views on additional Confidence Building Measures including drafts on prior notification of military exercises and prevention of air intrusions across the India-China LAC. The two sides also agreed that additional designated points for meetings between their border personnel will be established at Nathu La in the sikkim sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle sector.

भारतीय राजनयिकों के खाली पद

1306. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय किन-किन देशों में भारतीय राजनयिकों के पद खाली पड़े हैं और उन्हें कब तक भरे जाने की संभावना है ;

(ख) वर्ष 1995 में किन-किन देशों में भारतीय राजदूतों का कार्यकाल पूरा होने जा रहा है ; और

(ग) किन-किन देशों में ऐसे राजदूत कार्यरत हैं, जिनका कार्यकाल समाप्त हो गया है लेकिन फिर भी उन्हें अगली नियुक्ति होने तक कार्य करने के लिये कहा गया है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर.एल. भाटिया) : (क) इस समय